

December 2020 Report

Children's Library

Staff

This month we said good-bye to long time children's library assistant Molly Herbert who chose to retire at the end of 2020. We are still waiting on filling the Outreach Librarian position in the Children's Library. The library intends to also fill Molly's position with a junior circulation clerk. This is to fulfill our strategic mission to have a team of educators serving the families of Wilkinsburg. We will also need two other staff members in the Children's Library to safely reopen the space for families.

Programming

I have been partnering with the Wilkinsburg School District on their authorship program for 1st and 6th grade students. I have created some video content for families regarding library cards that was sent out to families and we have had a very positive response. I am excited about this collaboration with the school district and the positive response we have had from the book recommendation lists I sent out in December to families and I hope to do more of this.

I have continued to create my virtual storytimes and have really enjoyed doing so! I miss seeing my families in person but this has been a wonderful way to still feel connected to my community. We partnered with the Borough on our virtual Christmas Caroling and our virtual Santa Storytime, both of which were so delightful and successful. We hope to continue to provide this kind of content to families.

Upcoming

I've begun planning my summer program plan and intend to do a fully socially distanced program again. I have been partnering with Pittsburgh Learning Commons, Meshwork Press, and potentially Hatch Art Studio to create events and activities for our youth and families. We are in the process of putting together a collaborative art project where students will design art for the library. They will receive as part of their kit one of the metal bookends from our teen section as well as acrylic paint and paint brushes. We will work with them over the course of a few sessions on brainstorming and designing a piece of art. This art will live in the library where the whole community can enjoy it.

I also intend on using 2021 to work on our strategic plan and also on our family literacy programming. Ideally, we will be able to fill these large gaps in our staffing and be able to move forward with some of our important initiatives.